WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Raising funds for projects of NHAI

281. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the next phase 90 projects of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) requires $ 3-4 billion in the next two-three years: and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to raise funds for the execution of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) National Highways Authority of India has prepared Work plan for 2009-10 which envisages award of 122 projects of total length 11,947 km at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,00,000 crore. Under the financing plan for National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) recommended by the B.K. Chaturvedi Committee, NHAI would require borrowings of about Rs. 1,90,000 crore which may be raised through Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds, Tax free Bonds with 10 years maturity, Loans from insurance companies, Infrastructure Bonds, Loans from Multilateral Agencies (World Bank and Asian Development Bank), Market Borrowing (with Government Guarantee) and Loans from Domestic Financial Institutions (Bank).

Security implication of visa-on-arrival

*287. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the national security implications arising out of grant of highly disproportionate number of visa-on-arrival by Indian Immigration authorities in recent months;

(b) whether unlike Thailand or Indonesia, where temporary landing facility to foreign tourists are granted only upon emergent situations like death or illness in the family, India's immigration rules permits visa-on-arrival; and

(c) whether such laxity on the part of Indian immigration officials in the guise of tourism-friendly visa procedure, is posing a threat to national security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) It has been decided to introduce Visa-on-Arrival scheme for tourists from five countries *viz.* Singapore, Finland, New Zealand, Luxembourg and Japan on a pilot basis for a period of one year. The guidelines for the implementation of the scheme are to be notified shortly. At present, Temporary Landing Facility (TLF) up to a maximum period of 15 days is provided to a foreigner who arrives in India without a Visa in an emergent situation like death/serious illness in the family. In addition, Government had in August, 2003 made a provision for issuing Collective Landing Permits (CLPs) to foreign tourists in groups of 4 or more sponsored by recognised/approved Indian travel agencies and